AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-4.   (canceled).

5.   (Currently Amended): ~~The optical inspection method as set forth in claim 4,~~ An optical inspection method, comprising:

outputting an annular beam from a light source, focusing the annular beam at a target, and detecting light scattered from the target;

outputting a circular beam from the light source, focusing the circular beam at the target, and detecting light reflected from the target;

selecting an imaging operation type, and producing a selected one of the annular beam and the circular beam based on the imaging operation type;

wherein, when the imaging operation type is bright field imaging, the light source is controlled to produce the circular beam, and, when the image operation type is dark field imaging, the light source is controlled to produce the annular beam.

6-13.   (Canceled).

14.   (original): An optical inspection method, comprising:

providing a beam of light;

passing the beam of light through a first beam splitter;

scanning the light received through a first beam splitter to provide scanned light;

passing the scanned light through a scan lens and a second beam splitter, and illuminating a target through an objective lens;

collecting light returned back from the illuminated target;

passing the collected light to the second beam splitter;

providing part of the collected light, as a returned light signal, back through the scan lens and scanner to the first beam splitter;

deflecting the returned light signal, with the first beam splitter, through a focusing lens and a pinhole; and

receiving the light through the pinhole using one or more detectors.

15. (original): The optical inspection method as set forth in claim 14, wherein:

the target is movable in a target movement direction; and

the scanner scans with a scanning direction not perpendicular to the target movement direction.